



THE NASIG NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the North American Serials Interest Group, Inc.

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<u>NEWSLETTER</u>	12	As I embark upon my final column and prepare to pass the NASIG gavel and all my hair color coupons to Steve Oberg, the incoming president, it seems fitting to review the events of the past year.	
NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS	13	First, in spite of all the trepidation about the responsibility and time commitments required to successfully keep the organization on track, the year really does go by very quickly. Time does fly when you're having fun, or when you're so busy you can't even remember what day it is!	
<u>PROCEEDINGS</u>	14	Second, it has been a genuine pleasure to work with this year's Board. We bid a fond and teary farewell to Beverley Geer, outgoing Past President, Connie Foster, outgoing Secretary, and Jean Callaghan, outgoing Member-At-Large and site selection expert.	
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Everyone at the Boulder conference owes Beverley a debt of gratitude for making sure there will be good beer! I will very much miss her level-headed and well-reasoned responses, sense of humor, and the Jimmie Dale updates. Now that NASIG Board commitments are behind her, she is taking on two new challenging assignments. One as part of the 1998 NASIG Proceedings editorial team, and the other as incoming Vice-Chair of ALCTS Serials Section, following in the footsteps of another remarkable NASIG leader, Cindy Hepfer. I wish her the best of luck dealing with an entirely new bureaucracy.

Connie has spent the last two years churning out meeting minutes with lightning speed (totally showing up this former Secretary) and submitting all her reports EARLY! She is a diligent and dedicated worker and will now be transferring her talents to the programming side of NASIG. Good luck keeping the consistently excellent quality of conference programming!

Jean has worn many hats over her lengthy NASIG career, Newsletter Editor, CPC Co-Chair, Site Selection guru, and Member-At-Large. Jean has promised to impart some of her site selection expertise to Steve and Carol when they visit Carnegie Mellon University at the end of May. Jean is taking a rest from NASIG activities, so I hope she enjoys her "retirement." But I'll wager, she'll be back!

We conducted three position searches this year to fill vacancies for Archivist, Newsletter Editor and Proceedings Editors. Thanks to the efforts of our search committees, we have some outstanding appointments. The 1998 Proceedings Editorial Team is: Beatrice Caraway, Jeffrey Bullington, and Beverley Geer. The Newsletter Editor-in-Chief for 1998/2000 is Steve Savage. And elsewhere in this issue is the official announcement of Marilyn Fletcher as the Archivist for 1998/2001. My personal thanks to the all the members of the search committees: Eleanor Cook, Charlene Simser, Michael Somers, Carol MacAdam, Caroline Rothaug, Cynthia Coulter, Teresa Malinowski, Julie Gammon and Christine Stamison.

And all our thanks go to the "retiring" Archivist, Teresa Mullins, Newsletter Editor, Maggie Horn, and the 1997 Proceedings Editors, Charlene Simser and Michael Somers.

Several task forces have been at work this year, we will discuss final reports from the Publications Task Force and the Task Force to Study Cooperative Efforts at the June Board Meeting. An Archives Task Force will work

with our new Archivist to solve some of our storage issues. Earlier in the spring I appointed a Task Force on Outreach to Library Schools, and we expect a final report from them at our Fall 1998 Board meeting. There are also two one-person task forces keeping our Conference Planning and Program Planning manuals up to date. Thanks to everyone who has participated in one of these groups.

Rather than review each committee in alphabetical order as we do at the NASIG Board meetings (and as my cataloger predecessor and successor are wont to do), I am going to wing it in no particular order just for the thrill of it!

We had no requests for changes in the Bylaws, so these lucky people did not have to prepare a ballot. Instead they used their time to update the committee procedures manual and mount it on NASIGWeb.

The Professional Liaisons are an active group as evidenced by the reports of various meetings which appear in the Newsletter. 1997/98 has been the year to emphasize our public library colleagues who will be having their very first Networking Node. I again note the passing of Sue Malawski Swanson, and we still have a vacancy on the liaison roster.

Database & Directory committee members brought us a Web Membership Directory. I have found it invaluable to locate e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and faxes. Shortly after your return from the conference, you will receive the printed Membership Directory, which requires many hours to coordinate, compile, and proof. It is well worth the effort!

The other main assignment for D&D is maintenance of the membership database. This task traditionally falls to the Chair; Cheryl Riley and her able student assistant have processed over 1200 memberships this year (renewals and new members), countless e-mail and address changes, sent out mailing labels, and modified the database to better serve our needs.

The Newsletter has survived another round of personnel and personal changes. Yet, the print issues came out when they were supposed to, more or less. Continuing thanks to Armand, our printer (will we ever be able to get a photo of him for NASIGWeb?). There have been some glitches with the Web version, which are being worked on and it will definitely improve. Thanks to all of you who returned the survey from the February issue; preliminary results are very positive about the Newsletter.

What would the conference be like without evaluation forms? The Evaluation & Assessment Committee is all ready to tabulate your ratings for the 13th Annual Conference.

The Continuing Education Committee designed and produced some "NASIG Welcomes You" banners to be used at continuing education events. Regional Councils & Membership is expanding the concept to provide banners for each of our membership regions. These banners will help give NASIG more visibility and recognition. Partnerships are playing an increasingly important role in continuing education efforts. For the second time NASIG sponsored speakers at the North Carolina Serials Conference and the Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians Conference. CEC has begun relationships with the Louisiana Library Association, SOLINET, and the California Library Association, and is looking to expand its partnerships even further in 1998/99. To assist committee members in organizing sessions, they developed an events overview with a checklist. I am particularly excited to see how far our continuing efforts have come, because I led a workshop entitled "Education for Serialists" at the very first conference. Marcia Tuttle was inspired by it to lobby for a NASIG Continuing Education Committee, and here we are with a most ambitious list of offerings!

Regional Councils & Membership Committee is a truly international group, it has members from all regions of North America. Spanish and French-language brochures are available in addition to the original English version. The committee has also been busy developing manuals for its use. The Publicist position continues to evolve as we expand our publicity efforts beyond the NASIG membership. New members receive a welcome packet from RC&M, and the committee invites non-members who attend the conference to join. Another important effort this year was compiling a roster of all the state reps and updating the list of duties and responsibilities. The "C" in RC&M could easily stand for "Coordinating," because they coordinate with so many other committees.

What can I say about the Electronic Communications Committee except that it is (and always has been) a fabulous group, and without them it would be nearly impossible to conduct NASIG business! ECC is responsible for maintaining all the NASIG committee and task force listservs and NASIGWeb. The ECC Webspinner amazes and confounds us mere mortals as she seemingly instantaneously updates and adds materials to the Website once the word is given! We have the vision of Ann Okerson to thank for our electronic NASIG workplace, she drove us to the on-

ramp of the electronic superhighway and we've never looked back!

The proof of the excellent work from our Conference and Program Planning Committees lies in the conference. I am so pleased to be presiding over the 13th Annual Conference in such a beautiful location as Boulder. These two committees have been outstanding and great to work with. A tip of the NASIG visor to both committees!

Thanks to the well-lined bank coffers, we keep the Awards & Recognition Committee busy handing out lots and lots of awards. There will another crop of conference student grant winners (we must be nearing 100 by now), three Horizon winners for "new" serialists, and our very first Fritz Schwartz Scholarship recipient. Fritz was one of the good guys, and I know he would be so pleased to meet Michael Brown: they would hit it off famously. I am also thrilled that we will soon be able to give a Marcia Tuttle International Award. It was the 1984 trip to the UKSG (United Kingdom Serials Group) conference which gave birth to NASIG and skyrocketed my fledgling serials career. How do you repay such an extraordinary debt? By giving opportunities to others to grow and develop.

We also spend a considerable portion of the Annual Business Meeting handing out small tokens of appreciation to many volunteers who give so much of themselves. Yes, I'm taking about those infamous lead-filled paperweights. Since NASIG does not offer any stipends or monetary rewards beyond reimbursement of direct costs, it is the least we can do to recognize the dedicated women and men who make NASIG such a top-shelf organization. We are the envy of many professional groups, and we should all be very proud and excited to celebrate NASIG's continuing successes.

Which brings me to the last committee, Nominations & Elections, who are responsible for the critical task of balloting worthy candidates for office. Christie Degener and her committee have been successful in putting together another "I can't decide—there are too many good people" ballot for 1998/99 officers and board members. Please welcome Dan Tonkery back to the Board as Vice-President/President-Elect. Dan now has the distinction of holding as many Board positions as I have! Meg Mering joins us as Secretary, the first serials cataloger since Marilyn Lewis (nee Gonsiewski) in our early days. The ECC legacy lives on with the election of Maggie Rioux as Member-at-Large. I remember her positive comments after the first conference she attended; she volunteered for a committee the next year,

and now is on the Board. And everyone please give your support to Steve Oberg, our youngest in years, but not in life experience, NASIG President. He will need all your energy and enthusiasm in the year ahead, don't be shy about reminding him to relax and have some fun!

All I can say is, it's been a great ride this past year, thanks for all the memories, frustrations, failures, successes, excitement and genuine fun!

With enormous relief, I sign off for the last time as your President,

À bientôt/Hasta luego,

Susan

1998 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

On behalf of the 1997/98 Nominations and Elections Committee, I am pleased to announce the results of the 1998 Executive Board Election. Winners are shown in boldface.

Vice President / President-Elect (three-year term beginning 1998/1999)

Michael W. Markwith

Dan Tonkery

Secretary (two-year term beginning 1998/1999)

Anne E. McKee

Margaret (Meg) Mering

Member-at-Large

(two-year term beginning 1998/1999)

Karen Cargille

Diane Grover

Ann Ercelawn

Margaret Rioux

Carol Pitts Diedrichs

Sharon Cline McKay

(Five other members received write-in votes for Vice President / President-Elect; three other members received write-in votes for Member-at-Large)

Please help me congratulate the winners and express appreciation to all the candidates for their willingness to stand for elected office. I also want to thank the entire NASIG membership for their enthusiastic participation in this year's election, as shown by a return rate of 53% (566 out of 1074 ballots)! Last, but certainly not least, let me thank the members of the 1997/98 Nominations and Elections Committee for all their hard work: Janie Branham, Dexter Evans, Sandy Folsom, Joan Lamborn, Kat McGrath, Ann O'Neill, Kay Teel, and our Board Liaison, Beverley Geer.

Christie T. Degener

Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee

NASIG 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1999)

CALL FOR PAPERS, WORKSHOPS, AND PRECONFERENCES: 14TH ANNUAL NASIG CONFERENCE (June 10-13, 1999)

"From Carnegie to Internet II: Forging the Serials Future"

The North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) has tentatively scheduled its 14th Annual Conference, June 10-13, 1999, at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a river city of glistening skyscrapers nestled among lush green hills. NASIG's annual conference provides a forum for librarians, publishers, vendors, educators, binders, systems developers, and others in the serials information chain to exchange views, present new ideas, proactively seek solutions to common problems, and discuss matters of current interest. The conference Proceedings are published in both print and electronic formats, with the electronic

version made available to NASIG members on NASIGWeb (<http://nasig.ils.unc.edu>).

Founded at the beginning of this century by Andrew Carnegie, Carnegie Mellon University is internationally renowned as a center of technological innovation. Also, its proximity to the convergence of mighty rivers in downtown Pittsburgh make it an ideal setting for a conference program focused on reflections about the past century combined with views toward the future of serials. NASIG invites anyone in the information community to submit proposals and to suggest topics and speakers. NASIG's Program Planning Committee welcomes proposals for plenary papers and preconferences that look to the future of serials as well as those that contemplate the strides we have made during the last century. We are interested in presentations that will examine the reflective, visionary and practical aspects of the serials information chain,

that analyze emerging trends in light of past and present practices. Sessions which offer relevant research or which cause us to "think outside our box" as well as proposals which address decision making processes are welcomed.

Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- impact of Internet II;
- emerging standards for bibliographic access (public and technical aspects) in the 21st century;
- metadata projects, XML;
- tracking electronic products and services from aggregators and publishers to librarians;
- models of scholarly communication (pricing, access, delivery);
- foundations of serials in the next century;
- life beyond the Web;
- licensing issues;
- ethical concerns for networked information;
- impact of secondary publishers;
- preservation and archival concerns of print and non-print media;
- redefining the nature of serials.

The Committee also invites workshop proposals that will provide practical information and spark interest in unique and innovative ideas to help serialists make informed decisions and consider new options in their workplaces. Workshops provide a collegial setting to facilitate related discussion with those in attendance, as presenters explain how they manage specific processes in their own settings.

Some examples include but are not limited to:

- impact of system conversions on serialists;
- bibliographic formats, holdings, and standards;
- standardization and customization issues;
- evaluating and/or organizing Web sources for patrons and librarians;
- creating Web-based resource collections;

- invoicing options;
- managing work in changing public and/or technical services for a particular library environment;
- communicating changes and services to libraries, especially for e-journals;
- collection management trends;
- government documents issues;
- trends for evaluating e-journals and other electronic products;
- innovative resource sharing in public/academic libraries.

The Program Planning Committee reserves the right to combine, blend, or refocus proposals to maximize program breadth and relevance to our membership. As a result, not all presenters from proposals submitted by teams may be invited to participate. For optimal consideration in the competitive review process, please include complete information as follows:

1. Name, address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-address of the proposer(s)
2. Program title
3. Abstract (200-300 words) clearly explaining the proposal and, if appropriate, its relevance to the theme
4. Prioritized preference for the proposal: plenary, workshop or preconference

DEADLINE: August 1, 1998

Submit proposals, preferably via e-mail, to:

Meg Mering

NASIG Secretary

University of Nebraska Libraries

Love Library, 209N

Lincoln, NE 68588-0410

Phone: 402-472-2517

Fax: 402-472-5131

E-mail: mvm@unllib.unl.edu

NASIG 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1997)

12th Annual Conference (1997) Proceedings Available

Robb Waltner and Eleanor Cook

The Electronic Communications Committee is pleased to announce that the Annual Proceedings from the 1997 NASIG Conference held at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI.) are now available via NASIG's Website.

The ECC would like to thank the Proceedings Editors, Charlene Simser and Michael Somers, for completing

this aspect of the project so quickly, for doing such a fine job with the HTML, and for being so well-organized!

Remember, you can access the Proceedings area by using the login and password required for NASIG members-only services.

The login is nasigweb (case-sensitive). The password is the name of the city where the 1998 Conference will be held, preceded by the @ symbol, and with the last letter

of the word capitalized. For example, if we were meeting in Chicago this summer, the password would be @chicagO

NASIG's 12th Annual Conference Proceedings were published in spring 1998. The full citation is: Experimentation and Collaboration: Creating Serials for a

New Millennium. 12th Annual Conference, North American Serials Interest Group, May 29-June 1, 1997, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Charlene N. Simser, Michael A. Somers, Editors. New York: Haworth Press, 1998. Also issued as: The Serials Librarian, 34, no.1/2/3/4 (1998).

1998 NASIG AWARDS

The NASIG Awards and Recognition Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the 1998 Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, the 1998 Student Grants, and the 1998 Horizon Awards. The NASIG Conference will be held at the University of Colorado, Boulder on June 18-21.

This is the first year for the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship and the winner is Michael Brown of the University of New Mexico Library.

The 1998 Student Grant winners are:

Mariya Barash — Wayne State University
Valorie Huynh — University of Maryland, College Park
Carrie McLean — North Carolina Central University
Allan Scherlen — University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Michele Seikel — San Jose State University
Sherry Souliere — Simmons College
Jeff Steely — University of Texas
Laura Turner — University of Texas
Melody Ann Wendland — Emporia State University

Horizon Award Winners:

Beth Jedlicka — University of Georgia
Yumin Jiang — Cornell University
Jie Tian — California State University, Fullerton

Our thanks to the NASIG Awards and Recognition Committee members for their careful assessment of the many excellent applications which were received this year.

Debbie Sibley and Pat Frade, Co-Chairs, NASIG Awards and Recognition Committee; members of the committee: Charlene Chou, Linda Horiuchi, Kay Johnson, Reba Leiding, Marcella Leshner, Anne McKee, Steve Murden, Elizabeth Parang, Michelle Sitko, Laurie Sutherland, Markel Tumlin, and Peter Whiting.

MORE ABOUT THE FRITZ SCHWARTZ SCHOLARSHIP

Pat Frade

Since this is the first year for the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship, the NASIG Awards and Recognition Committee would like to distribute additional information regarding the award. The \$2,500 scholarship is given annually by the Serials Industry Systems Advisory Committee and the North American Serials Interest Group to a student who shows excellence in scholarship and potential for accomplishment in a serials career. The scholarship recipient will receive a Student Grant Award to attend the NASIG conference for the year the scholarship is granted and one year memberships in NASIG and SISAC.

This joint NASIG/SISAC scholarship is in memory of Frederick E. "Fritz" Schwartz who was a tireless proponent of standard electronic data interchange (EDI) in the serials publishing industry.

NASIG and SISAC are pleased that Michael A. Brown is the first recipient of the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship. Michael is currently a Library Information Specialist II at the University of New Mexico. Michael has 10 years of experience with the book and serials industry, from both the retail end (working as a periodical manager in a book store) to the library end. He has gained skills and experience in all aspects of acquisitions, serials, and preservation/bindery work. Michael served as Vice-Chair of the 1996 NASIG Conference Planning Committee. Michael has been accepted into the Library and Information Science program at the University of Texas at Austin beginning Fall 1998. His main career goal is to become a serials/acquisitions librarian at an academic library.

We would like to congratulate Michael on receiving this scholarship. We would like to thank NASIG and SISAC for co-sponsoring this scholarship.

NASIG COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Awards & Recognition Committee

Debbie Sibley, Co-Chair

Committee members were: Pat Frade (Co-Chair), Debbie Sibley (Co-Chair), Charlene Chou, Linda Horiuchi, Kay Johnson, Reba Leiding, Marcella Leshner, Anne McKee, Steve Murden, Elizabeth Parang, Michelle Sitko, Laurie Sutherland, Markel D. Tumlin, and Peter Whiting. Board Liaison was Jean Callaghan.

This year's committee task list continued to grow. Due to the cooperation and continuous hard work of committee members, the old saying "many hands make light work" was borne out.

The committee followed the structure, schedule, and process that had been set into place by last year's committee. There are now three awards administered by the Awards and Recognition Committee: the NASIG Conference Student Grant, the Horizon Award, and the Fritz Schwartz Serials Scholarship. This year, Pat Frade chaired the Horizon Award selection group and Debbie Sibley chaired the NASIG Conference Student Grant and the Fritz Schwartz Scholarship selections groups. Since the "Fritz" winner also receives a Student Grant, it was decided to group these two awards together. Half of the committee reviewed candidates for initial rankings for the Horizon Award; the other half reviewed candidates for initial rankings for the Student Grant and Fritz Awards. For the final rankings, the groups traded responsibilities. This gave each committee member some knowledge of all awards criteria and a good feel for the entire pool of candidates. The Co-Chairs reviewed all applicants for each aspect of each award.

Awards information was posted to NASIG approved listservs on November 1, 1997. Announcements of the Student Grant Award were mailed to library schools throughout the US and Canada soliciting applicants from among their students. Announcements and application forms for each award were also made available on the NASIG Web page. Subsequent announcements were made as the deadline (Feb. 15, 1998) drew nearer. Ten applications were submitted and ranked for the Horizon Award. Thirty-four complete applications for the NASIG Conference Student Grant were received and ranked. In its inaugural year, eleven applications were received for the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship. [Editors note: See articles elsewhere in this issue for a complete list of winners, and the winning Horizon Award essays]

Essays written by the 1998 Horizon Awardees and selections from questions answered by each of the Conference Student Grant winners will be published in the June issue of the NASIG Newsletter.

In addition to selection of this year's awardees, the committee is also responsible for procuring recognition awards presented each year at the conference. Plaques are presented to each award winner. A traditional paperweight is presented to all outgoing board members and committee chairs. These tangible awards will be presented at the NASIG Business Meeting.

The work of the committee could not be accomplished without the support of the committee listserv. The strength of this group is in its members and their willingness to participate in online discussions regarding the fine points of the awards process and their willingness to volunteer for any and all tasks, quickly and willingly.

In cooperation with the Mentoring Committee, all awardees are now assigned a mentor for the conference. Through this program, it is hoped that new attendees at NASIG are able to "learn the ropes" more quickly -- and not get hung!

Outstanding issues:

1. The International Award is still not complete. Follow-up work with the Board is needed to finalize the details for this award.
2. Criteria and language outlining requirements for the Horizon Award needs to be fine-tuned. There is still confusion among the selection committee regarding the selection language.
3. While the committee did an excellent job of accomplishing its charge, it is possible that smaller selection groups might ease the burden of work for the full committee. The fact that we have a successful committee with successful programs of reward could be managed differently. The committee should study other models for awards committees to determine if there is a more streamlined method of completing its business.
4. There is a need for some fine-tuning of the criteria for the "Fritz" award. Should Fritz Award winners be excluded from applying for further Student Grant

Awards? Should applicants be encouraged (or discouraged) from applying for multiple awards?

5. There is a need to tighten up communication lines with other NASIG committees (ie, Database and Directory, Mentors, Registration) to be sure that details do not "slip through the cracks". We have worked this year to try to make sure that people find out what they need to know. There are always a few surprises, however.

On a personal note, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this committee. As I cycle off of the committee, I feel that we have a great deal in the past few years and I'll miss this interchange.

Bylaws Committee

Julie Su, Chair

Committee Members: Joanne Donovan, Ann Ercelawn (Board Liaison), Karen Morgenroth, Catherine Nelson, Julie Su (Chair), Donna Sue Yanney, and Mitch Turitz.

There was no proposed bylaws change this past year. The Committee accomplished the following tasks via e-mail communications:

1) Following the decision made during the Ann Arbor meeting in June 1997 the Committee developed a new document, "Procedures for NASIG Bylaws Committee Ballot Mailing." This document will be appended to the Committee Guidelines.

2) Posted the Bylaws Committee Guidelines and the 1997/1998 Committee Calendar on the Committee's Web page.

3) Committee member Donna Sue Yanney noticed the discrepancy between the number of the Committee members as specified in the Committee Guidelines and the actual size of the committee. A minor revision of the Committee Guidelines was thus made in April 1998 to remove the specific reference to the number of the members in the Committee.

The Committee will meet at the annual conference in Boulder on Thursday, June 18, at 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Committee members whose terms expire after the Boulder Conference in June 1998 are: Joanne Donovan, Karen Morgenroth, and Catherine Nelson. I would like to thank the entire committee for their active participation and contributions to a successful year, especially the

new members, Donna Sue Yanney and Mitch Turitz, who have been actively contributed to the Committee work and discussions. A special thanks goes also to Joanne Donovan, the immediate past Committee Chair, and Ann Ercelawn, the Board Liaison, for their advice and support.

Continuing Education Committee

Marilyn Geller and Marty Schwartz, Co-Chairs

It is our pleasure to submit the annual report for the Continuing Education Committee for 1997/98.

As current Chairs of the NASIG Continuing Education Committee (CEC), we would like to acknowledge the diligence and hard work of most of our committee members with whom we had the privilege to serve this past year. In addition, our Executive Board liaison, Steve Oberg, deserves a special note of gratitude for the prompt attention, sage advice and the diplomatic manner in which he guided us toward achieving what we will summarize in the following paragraphs. Finally, the many members of NASIG who contributed to the events held proved once again the value that NASIG places upon sharing its vast store of expertise with the scholarly information community throughout the year.

We began the year with a lively meeting at the Ann Arbor Conference and a committee-wide consultation made possible by the Electronic Communication Committee's providing an e-mail listserv for us. As a result, we developed a challenging set of planned programs that nearly tripled the 1996/97 budget proposal.

Shortly thereafter, the Committee announced the acquisition of two large "NASIG Welcomes You" banners that will be used at CEC events where appropriate, as well as by annual conference Local Arrangement Committees. In addition, we were pleased to hear that this concept was adopted as one possible aspect of a traveling promotional road show that the Regional Council and Membership Committee is developing.

As an aid to event planning and execution, the Co-Chairs drafted and forwarded to all Committee members an "Event Planning Overview" and a corresponding "Event Checklist" to use as a template in their work.

In March, Judy Irvin brought to fruition at the Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference the NASIG sponsorship of "Full Text Evaluation: Are We Getting the Real Thing?", a presentation by Corrine Ebbs and

Laurie Preston based upon a workshop they gave at the NASIG 12 Annual Conference in Ann Arbor. The Louisiana Library Association was very pleased with this collaboration, making future joint sponsorship a very good prospect. (See report later in this issue.)

Also in March, Maggie Rioux, with the underwriting by NASIG, ably presented "Maximizing the Web for Serialists", a breakout session at the 7th Annual North Carolina Serials Conference in Chapel Hill. This is the second year that NASIG has been able to work with the North Carolina Serials Conference to sponsor a program, and we wish to thank both Evelyn Council and Eleanor Cook with providing NASIG this opportunity. (See report later in this issue.)

In May, Phil Greene will both orchestrate and participate in a workshop entitled "The Serials Triangle: Managing Serials into the Next Millennium" as a NASIG sponsored pre-conference at the Maryland Library Association Annual Conference in Ocean City. Kathryn Suarez, Mary Gilbert and Melanie Vandermark will be the other speakers.

Also in May, thanks to the good offices of Denise Novak, NASIG will once again participate with the Ohio Valley Group of Technical Services Librarians (OVGTSL) as we underwrite Leah Black's presentation on cataloging from home, an emerging development within the growing telecommuting options for the profession.

Coming this summer, we are pleased to report that Michele Crump has arranged for NASIG to co-sponsor with SOLINET a full day conference on the US MARC format to be held in Atlanta. Pat French is busy coordinating two sessions supported by NASIG to be held this coming September in conjunction with the California Library Association.

Jeff Holland reports that he has established contact with AMIGOS and is well on the way to developing a Fall '98 program to be co-sponsored with them.

We also note that Linda Meiseles has begun the process of identifying possible themes for a workshop to be held in conjunction with the Long Island Library Association and that Cheryl Rogers has contacted us regarding a possible joint event in conjunction with the Missouri Library Association.

Many of the programs sponsored this year by NASIG's Continuing Education Committee are the result of past collaborations or are new collaborations from which we can continue to produce joint programs in future years.

Leslie Horner Button has agreed to coordinate management of NASIG's Human Resources Directory, a Web based service providing information about NASIG members who are willing to serve as speakers and/or consultants on a wide variety of subjects. The directory is available on NASIGWeb to anyone without a user identification or password and serves to showcase NASIG's greatest resource, our members.

The continuing success of the Mentor Program, due to the great energies of Allison Roth in particular, remains an ongoing bright star in CEC's year. Allison reports that evaluations turned in to her after the 12th annual Conference in Ann Arbor provided positive feedback for future development of this now established NASIG service to new annual conference attendees.

In summary, then, the Chairs are grateful for what has come to pass in 97/98 and have high expectations for the coming program year 98/99 as to new areas of development, including movement in areas such as public library programming and Mexican library cooperation.

We also wish to thank those members of our 97/98 CEC team who are rotating off the Committee this June: Nancy Chaffin, Michele Crump, Marilyn Geller (Co-Chair), Phil Greene, and Linda Meiseles.

Database & Directory Committee

Cheryl Riley, Chair

Committee members for the past year were: Robert Cleary, Ann Dykas, Carol Gill, Leanne Hillery, Kevin Randall, Rose Robischon, Virginia Rumph, Christopher Thornton, and Cheryl Riley, Chair. Ann Ercelawn served as the Board liaison.

The primary accomplishment for this year was mounting the Membership Directory on NASIGWeb. Several months were spent investigating software to use in maintaining a Web membership directory. Technological constraints and security issues were prohibitive so a method was developed that allowed us to use the current membership database. Membership records are put into Directory format, then converted to HTML, then transferred to the Web. Ann Dykas, Carol Gill, and Cheryl Riley had the primary responsibility for this project; all committee members commented on the design on the screens. Ann Dykas is responsible for developing the template used to post the Directory information on the Web. The committee provided the Program Planning Committee with information on the

area of responsibility and type of responsibility and relative percentage breakdown of our members. Kevin Randall compiled this information. Kevin developed a proposal to include this information in the NASIG database. The committee forwarded the proposal to the Board, but the Board decided not to implement this suggestion.

A change in the regional council structure approved by the Board 10/97 required changes in the regional council information in the database, so that data element was reviewed for the entire database. A second quality control initiative was undertaken with the automated serials system data element. A standard vocabulary list is maintained and information entered into the database according to this listing. This helps streamline the indexing done at the time the printed membership directory is produced.

The Directory information has all been sent to the desktop publisher and should be mailed by June 20, 1998. Rose Robischon coordinated the 1998 printed Directory.

The renewal rate for NASIG members was 74% with the first notice; after the final reminder the renewal rate rose to 87%. A courtesy last-minute e-mail reminder went to all non-renewing members April 15. Of the 168 non-renewing members, 38 were bad e-mail addresses; 15 responded with the decision not to renew, and 28 requested another renewal form. If all 28 renew, our renewal rate will be 90%. As of May 1, membership totaled 1225. Membership make-up, by type of institution is:

- university library - 620 or 50.61%
- college library - 82 or 6.69%
- community college library - 10 or .82%
- medical library - 63 or 5.14%
- law library - 52 or 4.24%
- public library - 31 or 2.53%
- government, national, or state library - 44 or 3.59%
- corporate or special library - 43 or 3.51%
- subscription vendor or agency - 93 or 7.59%
- book vendor - 15 or 1.22%
- publisher - 70 or 5.71%
- back issues dealer - 5 or .41%
- binder - 6 or .50%
- automated systems vendor - 12 or .98%
- library network, consortium, or utility - 14 or 1.14%
- professional association - 15 or 1.22%
- database producer - 7 or .57%
- student - 15 or 1.22%; other - 28 or 2.29%.

Committee members, Robert Cleary and Leanne Hillery rotate off the committee this year. We appreciate Robert's work with the indexing and documentation and Leanne's assistance with the directory. New committee members this year are: Donnice Cochenour and Frieda Rosenberg. We welcome their expertise, ideas, and assistance in meeting our committee charge.

Electronic Communications Committee

Donnice Cochenour and Mike Randall, Co-Chairs

Committee members for 1997/98 include: Donnice Cochenour (Co-Chair), Eleanor Cook (Board Liaison), Michelle Flinchbaugh, Barbara Hall, Margi Mann, Wendy Moore, Rick Ralston, Michael Randall (Co-Chair), Stephanie Schmitt, Beth Jane Toren, Robb Waltner, Mary Wilke, Yvonne W. Zhang.

Mike Randall served as primary listowner for the year and will continue in that capacity for the coming year. Wendy Moore and Rick Ralston were backup listowners. During 1997/98, Donnice Cochenour served as Webspinner. Donnice will be rotating off the ECC as of June, and Stephanie Schmitt has agreed to take over as Webspinner for the coming year. Those who have assisted with the Web include Stephanie, Beth Jane Toren, and Robb Waltner.

On August 16, 1997 staff at the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science changed servers and all the NASIG files were moved to the new machine. In the process, the gopher server was lost and the WAIS indexing became non-functional. Following the recommendation of the ECC'er Michelle Flinchbaugh, who was responsible for the initial development work to create the WAIS indexing, new search software was sought. At the October 25, 1997 meeting, the Board approved installation of Excite for Web Servers, a freeware program available from Excite, Inc. which is more powerful and less memory intense than the WAIS indexing process. This also allowed expansion of the indexing to the Proceedings using the same software. On the down side, with the loss of the gopher server, earlier Newsletter and Proceedings files are temporarily unavailable as the gopher links no longer work. Restoring access to these earlier volumes is underway. Until access is restored, these files are not searchable.

At the same time UNC staff moved NASIG files to the new machine, they upgraded NASIG's e-mail list software to ListProc version 8.1a. A benefit derived from the upgrade is that current documentation is now

available to assist UNC staff and the listowner. As a consequence, the listowner now has the capability to change selected configuration options on NASIG lists. Another result of the upgrade was a tenfold increase in error reports to the listowner due to bounced messages on the NASIG-L list. Another situation, that may have been a consequence of the upgrade, was the failure of the ListProc "approve" command. UNC staff were unable to solve this problem, and so from October 1997 through February 1998, most postings to NASIG-L had to be forwarded to the list by the listowner, rather than being approved for posting directly by the messages' authors. The problem was finally solved when UNC brought in an outside expert.

In December 1997 Donnice Cochenour and Eleanor Cook held a telephone conference call with Scott Barker of UNC, to discuss continuing concerns about UNC's responsiveness and level of support for NASIG electronic activities. The call resulted in mutual understanding and agreement on goals for the future.

NASIG LIST ACTIVITIES

In 1997, for the first time machine-matching, rather than manual checking, was used in the annual purge of non-renewed members from NASIG-L. Rick Ralston ran a copy of the membership file, provided by the Database and Directory Committee, against the NASIG-L subscribers file to identify records to be purged. The process also provided other useful list management information for NASIG-L.

Each year committee and task force lists are updated, based on the committee/task force roster provided by the Vice-President/President Elect. Outgoing members need to be removed from each list and new members added. This was completed in the summer with minimal difficulties. E-mail letters went to each committee/task force Chair with a list of members and instructions on how to use the list.

A new list, LIBSCHOOL-TF, was set up for members of a newly appointed taskforce appointed to look into outreach to library schools.

NASIG WEB ENHANCEMENTS

The decentralized model of NASIGWeb publishing and maintenance was implemented this year. Following a meeting of ECC liaisons and committee liaisons, each committee received their own logon/password and file space where html files can be made publicly available, only requiring the Webspinner to create the link from the

Home Page. Exceptions to this are the Proceedings and Newsletter files which must be moved to the appropriate location to allow indexing of their contents. The creation of the online Membership Directory is one of the major accomplishments for the year showing the success of the decentralized model. The Database and Directory Committee did all of their own development work and the only effort required by the ECC was to make the link from the NASIG Home Page to the Membership Directory files. Other accomplishments included:

- The five issues of the Newsletter were marked up by the Newsletter Web Editor after which they were moved to the members-only directory, indexed and mounted. ECC'er Beth Jane Toren assisted with this process after Regina Beach, Newsletter Production Editor (Web), finished the markup.
- ECC continued to provide the NASIG job listing service under the capable hands of Stephanie Schmitt.
- The Awards & Recognition Committee supplied files with descriptions of each award and application forms which were marked up and mounted.
- For the first time, the Nominations and Elections Committee supplied files of candidate profiles to be marked up and mounted.
- A new Executive Board Minutes section has been created which will allow the minutes to be posted immediately after the Board meetings rather than waiting for the next issue of the Newsletter. These minutes will also be linked to the Newsletter to reflect that they have been published in the print version of the Newsletter.
- The Proceedings files were marked up by the Conference Proceedings Editors after which they were moved to the members-only directory, indexed and mounted. ECC'er Robb Waltner was the liaison to the Proceedings Editors and completed the process.
- The Conference brochure was marked up and mounted with additional links to local information sources. ECC'ers Donnice Cochenour and Robb Waltner served as liaisons to the Conference Planning Committee by virtue of their membership on both committees.
- The Bylaws Committee marked up the latest edition of the Bylaws and created new documentation for

guidelines and a calendar of committee responsibilities for their committee documentation page.

- French and Spanish versions of the membership brochure were provided by the Regional Councils & Membership Committee and have been marked up. These are awaiting review and approval by those proficient in the language before being released to the general public.
- A Newsletter Survey to identify possible changes in the format and content of the Newsletter was placed on the Web and a link was created to promote the CONSER Survey.

NASIG PRECONFERENCE

The ECC members immediately debriefed following the successful preconference at Ann Arbor and began planning for the next year. Based on participants' comments stressing the need for continued hands-on sessions, the preconference at Boulder will include an a-la-carte menu of 7 hands-on sessions and 3 presentations, repeating 5 of the hands-on sessions. Participants will be able to select three sessions from the offerings ranging from beginning HTML to intermediate sessions on design guidelines, forms, frames, graphics animation, and image maps. Presentations will evaluate browsers, compare HTML editing software, and review the development of HTML standards.

Evaluation and Assessment Committee

Jennifer Marill, Chair

Committee Members: Jennifer Marill (Chair), Vivian Bernstein, June Chressanthi, Janice Lindquist, Juliann Rankin, Lucien Rossignol, Kristine Smets, David Winchester.

The cycle of activities for the Evaluation and Assessment Committee runs roughly from the beginning of the calendar year to its end. However, since the annual reports from committees are due May 1 each year, this report will represent activities from January through April 1998. The committee will produce a follow-up report of its activities in December 1998.

Activities

In pursuit of the committee's goals and objectives, the EAC undertook the following activities:

Jan.-Feb. 1998

Beatrice Caraway, former Chair, compiled and sent the committee manual to the current Chair.

March-April 1998

Established committee assignments for the 1998 tasks. Created conference and preconference evaluation forms for the Boulder conference using the Survey-Pro software.

Expenditures

No expenses were incurred from Jan.-April 1998.

GOALS FOR MAY-DECEMBER 1998

Post-conference:

Provide brief conference and pre-conference reports to the President and Past President. If needed, provide the PPC with a summary of conference registrant information.

Summer 1998

Committee members will complete data entry from evaluation forms.

August-October 1998

Using the Survey-Pro software, generate and distribute reports to the NASIG Board and specified committee chairs by the fall Board meeting.

November 1998

Submit summary conference evaluation report to the NASIG Newsletter.

Newsletter Editorial Board

Marguerite Horn, Chair

It's been yet another year of changes: personnel and personal. Steve Savage, Production Editor, Wayne State University, stayed on the Board, but as Special Assignments Editor. In this capacity, he helped in the transition of the new Production Editor(s) and also developed, administered, and interpreted our first survey. Steve's place as Production Editor was taken by two people, as we split the paper and electronic production duties. With the September issue, Naomi Young (Northern Arizona University and then Southern Methodist University) started as Production Editor (Print) and Regina Beach (Mississippi State University) began as Production Editor (Web). John Harrison (Bates College) continued as Distribution Editor, and Carol MacAdam (Swets) continued as Columns Editor. Maggie Horn remained as Editor-in-Chief but moved from

Northern Arizona University to SUNY Albany. Susan Davis is our Board liaison.

Although we managed to publish all five issues within the month of the issue, the timing of individual issues left much to be desired. Between changes of personnel, changes of places of work (and software), and the usual changes inherent in transition, both print and Web versions suffered delays in publication – print publication delays will always slow down the Web version, as that version can not be started until the print is "put to bed." Next year we look for the transition problems to settle down so that publication is smoother.

This year marked a first for the Newsletter, in the survey published in the February issue. This survey will form the major part of our self-study, due to the Executive Board by the June meeting. At the time of writing this report, I can paraphrase Sally Field with the results of the survey: "You like us, you really like us." The NASIG members who responded reported being generally pleased with the way things are in the Newsletter, with some recommendations for more of one kind of coverage and less of another. Interestingly, there was overwhelming support for continuation of a print version.

This is my last annual report as Editor-in-Chief of the Newsletter; the incoming Editor-in-Chief, Steve Savage, has graciously accepted my offer to stay on as Copy Editor. I have enjoyed my time as the "boss" – particularly working with such a fine Board: Carol and Steve have been on since I've been Editor-in-Chief; John, Naomi, and Regina have joined recently; Vikki Medaglia served for two years as Distribution Editor. I look forward to an even better Newsletter under Steve's leadership.

Nominations And Elections Committee

Christie T. Degener, Chair

The Committee began its year's work by making plans to meet during the time slot set aside for this purpose at the annual conference. Although travel delays prevented the incoming Chair from presiding, several members met and began discussing the major concerns noted in the annual report of the 1996/97 Nominations and Elections Committee. This report noted, among other things, that the composition of the Board should reflect the diversity of the NASIG membership but that non-academic nominees seemed reluctant to accept nomination. The members of the 1997/98 committee also recognized these observations as legitimate concerns. Following established election procedures,

the committee focused its efforts on addressing these concerns and effectively carrying out its charge to select candidates "in such a manner as to insure as broad a representation as possible of NASIG constituencies and of the geographic distribution of the membership" (NASIG Bylaws, Article VII, section 1).

The initial Call for Nominations was included in the conference notebook distributed to attendees at the annual conference. Additional nomination forms were published in the September 1997 issue of the NASIG Newsletter and submitted for electronic distribution via NASIG-L on August 28, 1997. The electronic Call for Nominations included an introductory section reiterating the need to consider the diverse nature of the NASIG membership when submitting nominations. The NASIG membership responded enthusiastically by nominating 58 different NASIG members, including 19 vendor and publisher representatives, for one or more offices. After eligibility checks were completed, the nomination pool consisted of 45 nominees for Member-at-Large, 14 nominees for Secretary, and 11 nominees for Vice President/President-Elect.

Each nominee was then contacted about his or her willingness to complete a profile for the committee to review. Approximately half agreed to do this, and the Chair eventually received 20 profiles for Member-at-Large, 7 profiles for Secretary, and 5 profiles for Vice President/President Elect. The profile form used followed last year's model in asking nominees to describe their experience in different areas, such as NASIG-related activities, rather than submitting a formal curriculum vitae.

Prior to distribution of the profiles to the committee members, the committee discussed the process for evaluating nominees. Committee members decided to continue using the submitted profile information as the main basis for the evaluation. After completing this step, committee members could exercise the option to designate whether a particular nominee among several highly qualified nominees would add diversity (by means of the constituency or geographic area represented, etc.) to a potential slate. After finalizing the process to be used, the profiles were mailed to committee members on December 4. Each member's individual evaluations were returned to the Chair and the combined committee results were distributed via e-mail on December 19. Committee discussion on the final slate was delayed by the Christmas and New Year's holidays but deliberations were concluded on January 16, 1998 and the slate forwarded to the President for review and approval by the Executive Board. After approval was received, the

slated candidates were contacted on January 21-22, and non-slatted candidates were notified by letters sent out January 27. Meanwhile, the Notice of General Election was posted on NASIG-L on December 29, 1997, and submitted for publication in the February 1998 issue of the NASIG Newsletter.

Ballot preparations moved into high gear once the slate was finalized. Slatted candidates were offered the opportunity to review their profiles and make any corrections needed. At the Chair's request, Connie Foster, NASIG Secretary, ordered pre-printed envelopes to use for mailing out ballots and for the return of completed ballots. The Chair opted to print the ballots on NASIG letterhead to further guarantee election security. Mailing labels were produced by Cheryl Riley, Chair of the Database & Directory Committee, and received by the Chair on February 2. The Chair selected a vendor to print ballots and reproduce the candidate profiles; the originals were submitted to the vendor on February 6 and the completed job was returned February 9. Student assistants employed at the UNC-Chapel Hill Health Sciences Library did most of the ballot assembly from February 9-12 (time logs indicate they provided 32.75 hours of assistance). A total of 1074 ballots were mailed out February 11-12 and an announcement of the ballot mailing was posted to NASIG-L on February 13. To save postage costs, the mailed ballots omitted the "Selected Publications/ Presentations" section of each candidate's profile but a more complete version of the candidate profiles was sent to Donnice Cochenour to post on NASIGWeb and publicly announced on February 13.

Completed ballots had to be postmarked by March 15 to be eligible. 566 ballots were received out of 1074 mailed for a return rate of 53%. Of these, 560 were eligible and 6 were ineligible (all postmarked after the March 15 deadline). [Ed. Note: See elections results elsewhere in this issue.]

The Chair notified all slated candidates of the election results on March 26. The election results were posted on NASIG-L on March 27 and will be published in the June 1998 issue of the NASIG Newsletter. Officer and Executive Board information was submitted for the 1998/99 NASIG Directory on April 7.

As outgoing Chair, I wish to encourage the membership to keep nominating a widely diverse group of candidates for future elections. Having a good pool of nominees greatly assists the work of this committee. Electing members that cover the breadth of the NASIG membership will help NASIG's continued effectiveness as an organization. Without this diversity, NASIG cannot

continue promoting communication and sharing of ideas among all members of the serials information chain.

On a more personal note, I want to compliment the NASIG membership regarding their attitude toward this year's election process. Those members willing to complete nominee profiles were enthusiastically prepared to offer NASIG their very best efforts should they win election. Members that declined to complete profiles often did so reluctantly, stating that current job responsibilities, other external professional commitments, or ongoing NASIG commitments made it impossible for them to pledge the 100% effort they felt these offices would deserve, should they win election. Both responses greatly impressed this longtime NASIG member.

Finally, I wish to thank the many NASIG members that assisted with this election, some mentioned by name in this report. Special thanks go to the other committee members (Janie Branham, Dexter Evans, Sandy Folsom, Joan Lamborn, Kat McGrath, Ann O'Neill, Kay Teel), and the committee's Board Liaison, Beverley Geer.

Proceedings Editors

by Charlene N. Simser and Michael A. Somers

The Editors for the NASIG 12th annual conference Proceedings were Charlene N. Simser and Michael A. Somers from Kansas State University Libraries. They were appointed in February 1997. The Editors also had the service of two Board liaisons, Carol Pitts Diedrichs and Eleanor Cook.

Both of the Editors visited the Haworth Press, Inc. offices in April 1997. The Editors met with both the production staff in the Binghamton, NY, office and the editorial staff in the West Hazelton, PA, office. Nancy Deisroth, the leader of the editorial team for the NASIG Proceedings and Helen Mallon, head of the Editorial Section, conducted the tour of the West Hazelton office. They provided the Editors with very useful and valuable information about the editorial process and suggestions for meeting the production deadlines.

The Editors posted announcements on NASIG-L inviting interested members to apply for positions as workshop recorders and Proceedings Indexer. Applicants were selected both for their writing ability and their interest in specific workshops. Although the response to the NASIG-L announcement was favorable, the Editors had to solicit a few recorders from the list of conference registrants. The response to the announcement for the

Indexer was equally great. However, problems arose selecting an indexer. The Editors selected and contacted an applicant, who never responded to the invitation to become the Indexer. Discussion arose between the Editors, the Haworth Press liaison, and the Editors' Board liaison. It was eventually decided that NASIG would pay Haworth Press for the services of a professional indexer.

The 1997 Proceedings contain the following:

Preconference I	1 paper
Preconference II	4 papers
Plenary Sessions	3 papers
Projects Sessions	5 papers
Issues Sessions	11 papers
Workshops	22 papers

One of the Issues Sessions presentation was transcribed from audio tape, and one of the Projects Sessions papers was not included at the author's request since it was the basis for an article published at the same time as the 1997 NASIG conference. Most of the papers were received by the deadline set by the Editors. However, a few papers and workshop reports were late and required the intervention of Eleanor Cook. The Proceedings manuscript was submitted to Haworth Press in early November. Galley proofs were received in mid-January, and they were returned within two weeks.

The Editors completely revised the Editors' Manual. Disk and print copies were mailed to the 1998 conference Proceedings Editors and Board liaison in early March. The Editors completed the electronic version of the Proceedings in late March.

Charlene and I would like to thank our Board liaisons, Carol Pitts Diedrichs and Eleanor Cook, for their support and assistance. They were invaluable in resolving tough issues with grace and humor. We appreciate their time and effort on our behalf. We also extend our gratitude to the editorial staff at Haworth Press, especially Nancy Deisroth. Ms. Deisroth worked diligently to keep us informed about the manuscript's progress through the editorial process. Her patience and expert assistance were appreciated.

Professional Liaisons Committee

Connie Foster, Chair

The NASIG Professional Liaisons form a vital link to other organizations throughout the information community. We were saddened this year by the loss of Sue Malawski Swanson, liaison to the Association of American Publishers/PSP Journals Committee. We are currently awaiting a replacement appointment. NASIG has 18 liaison positions.

In response to the Strategic Plan, we are actively and successfully involved in gaining members from the public library sector. At the Boulder conference, we will have a node for public librarians to share NASIG's vision and avenues for involvement. Marsha Bennett, Public Library Association Liaison, along with Beverley Geer and Connie Foster, will facilitate this discussion. Special thanks to Isabel Czech, Jean Hirons, Linda Hulbert, and John Tagler for their reports in the Newsletter, enlightening us about meetings we often could not attend. We appreciate the work done by all of our professional liaisons on behalf of NASIG.

Program Planning Committee

Judy Luther, Co-Chair

The Program Planning Committee structure continued this year with dual subcommittees. Mike Markwith and Judy Luther co-chaired the plenary/issues sessions with support from Ladd Brown, Bob Persing, Mary Page and Cecilia Leathem. Majorie Wilhite chaired the workshops with support from Whitney Alexander, Jos Anemaet, Rita Broadway, Sandy Gurshman, and Margaret Mering. Karen Cargille, Christa Easton and Cindy Hepfer remained as advisors to the group, and Carol Diedrichs served as Board Liaison.

The success of the programs in prior years prompted the Committee to continue the same format with a plenary/general session starting each day. These are followed by twenty workshops divided into two sets (each repeated) on Friday and Saturday and twelve concurrent sessions divided into two sets, one set on Friday and one on Sunday morning. The timing of workshops was modified to repeat before and immediately after lunch to allow the presenters to complete their programs within a limited time frame. Minor schedule adjustments were made to allow time for crossing campus to reach the meeting area from the dorms.

There were 54 program proposals submitted to the Committee which made the selection process

challenging. Five were accepted and modified to address issues in concurrent sessions and nineteen were accepted for workshops. There was a desire expressed by the NASIG Board to involve more publishers contributing to the organization in a visible way. This resulted in several issues sessions being created on topics of interest to both librarians and publishers.

Two preconferences are scheduled as a result of recommendations. "HTML from the Ground Up" is sponsored by the Electronic Communications Committee and "Leading from Any Position" led by John Shannon, an Organizational Change Consultant, was suggested by the NASIG Board.

The joint meeting of the Program Planning Committee (PPC) and the Conference Planning Committee (CPC) during the fall Board meeting (and snowstorm) in Boulder was helpful in terms of understanding the logistics for speakers, housing and meeting space. Meeting with the coordinators laid the groundwork for supporting program and audiovisual requirements of the speakers.

One change this year was to designate the PPC committee members as the primary point of contact for each of the speakers to answer questions, insure that audio-visual needs, conference registration forms, housing and transportation requirements were coordinated. This was simpler for the speakers than asking each of them to contact various NASIG members to confirm their plans.

We are grateful to the members of CPC who were patient as we adapted to the new format. We expect to have better coordination on the submission of papers for Proceedings by plenary and issue speakers. We also appreciated feedback and support from the Board in the development of the Program.

Regional Councils and Membership Committee

Ann Nez, Chair

The members of the Regional Councils and Membership Committee were active in several areas this year: recruiting new members; revising the membership regions and filling open positions; promoting the new French and Spanish brochures; developing a traveling display for use by Regional and local representatives and advertising NASIG activities.

The Committee continued its efforts to recruit new members. Regional coordinators and state / provincial

representatives distributed membership brochures at state and regional library association conferences and promoted NASIG at library schools. Representatives also promoted the NASIG student grant applications. In September Anne Frohlich sent a letter and membership brochure to the 130 non-members who had attended the Ann Arbor meeting encouraging them to join NASIG. Between July 1997 and April 1998, Marla Whitney mailed out 140 membership packets to new NASIG members. This year the packet included NASIG notepads developed by the Publicist, Judy Johnston.

As a result of discussions at the 1997 committee meeting, RC & M decided to ask state and provincial representatives to contact new members in their regions and welcome them to the organization. The RC & M Chair has been forwarding the names of new members to each regional coordinator for distribution to the state and provincial representatives. A number of representatives have said they like to monitor the new member list to see the results of their recruitment efforts.

With the help of Judy Johnson and Joyce Tenney, RC & M revised the letter which is sent to new state and provincial representatives, as well as the "List of Duties and Responsibilities." Both documents now ask the local representatives to contact new members, and to submit an annual report each spring. Local representatives have never had a specific term of office. The new letter attempts to bring local appointments in line with official NASIG committee terms by limiting tenure to two consecutive two-year terms. However, with approximately 60 state and local positions (many of which are open at any given time), it is impractical to force a willing incumbent off the committee if there is not a volunteer waiting for the position. This year we had 14 local seats open. We posted a call for volunteers to NASIG-L and were able to fill six open seats.

Several new RC & M members asked for a position description with more detail than what is available in the Committee Charge. Although there is a "List of Duties and Responsibilities" for local representatives, there is not a similar list for the Regional Coordinators. Joyce Tenney developed a manual for RC & M which outlines committee tasks and target dates. This has been invaluable for the Chair. The Publicist has a similar manual. Putting the Committee and Publicist Manuals on the NASIG Website would benefit all committee members.

One goal of the RC & M's Strategic Plan has been to promote membership in North America beyond the boundaries of the United States. To promote this effort,

the Publicist took delivery of the French language membership brochures, and distributed both French and Spanish brochures to Regional Coordinators and local representatives. At their Mid-Winter meeting, the Board decided that RC & M should not attempt to produce a multilingual brochure to replace the three separate versions. The English language brochure will be revised and reprinted following the 1998 Annual Meeting. Spanish and French brochures will be revised and reprinted when the stock is depleted. In Jan. 1998 Judy Johnston sent Donnice Cochenour electronic versions of the French and Spanish membership brochures. She requested them in order to mount them on the NASIG Website

In a related effort, the Board approved recognizing Mexico as a membership region, and establishing a third Canadian membership region. Lynne Murphy (Ontario) and Pam Morgan (Eastern Canada) worked with the Chair and the Board liaison, Jim Mouw, to include all the provinces in the revised Canadian membership regions.

At the October meeting, the Board approved a wording change to the Committee Charge. The new charge recognizes the position of publicist, and allows the committee to consist of one representative from each membership region.

Judy Johnston (Publicist) worked with the Chair, Jim Mouw and Marty Gordon of Continuing Education, to develop a traveling display which representatives could use when promoting NASIG at local library association meetings. At their Spring meeting, the Board approved funding for thirteen displays — one for each membership region. The basic contents will consist of membership brochures, a NASIG banner, and the "Shaping a

Serialist" brochure (both developed by the Continuing Education Committee). The banners and brochures will be sent to the regional coordinators after the June meeting.

In addition to supervising the foreign language brochures and developing the traveling display, the Publicist was also responsible for publicizing NASIG events. The following announcements were sent to the standard group of listservs:

- June 1997: Call for papers, workshops and preconferences for the 1998 NASIG Annual Conference
- January 1998: Announcement of the 1998 Conference Proceedings editorial team, at the request of Eleanor Cook.
- April 1998: NASIG election results, at the request of Christine Degener; MLA/NASIG preconference, at the request of Marty Gordon.

In Feb. 1998 Judy Johnston contacted American Libraries to request an announcement of the 1998 NASIG annual conference, to appear in the Mar. or April print issue. The announcement did not appear; however, it did appear on the American Libraries "Datebook" Web page. In April I reported this to the NASIG officers, and we will decide next year what we wish to request. The Chair and the Publicist have both recommended a Publicist understudy for 1998-1999, as Judy Johnston will rotate off the committee in June 1999.

A goal for the end of this year and early next year is to revise and update the Strategic Plan.

OTHER NASIG NEWS

HORIZON AWARD WINNING ESSAYS

[Ed. note: Each Horizon Award applicant was asked to address the following: Please discuss the 1988 Conference Theme: "Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Serials Vision and Common Sense" (Include in your discussion the theme's relevance to the information community, to serials work, and to your own professional goals)]

Beth Jedlicka, Serials Cataloger, University of Georgia

"Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Serials Vision and Common Sense" is a timely theme. Serials are changing, and many of these changes will have a widespread effect throughout the information community. The serials world is expanding. Not only are there new

carriers in which serials are published, but the very nature of seriality itself is being re-examined. Serialists must be proactive, participating in the changes wherever possible, and respond with creativity and flexibility. We must jump into the flow. Common sense is the anchor that will allow us to participate and respond without being swept away and drowned.

In September I attended an institute on electronic serials. One of the speakers demonstrated a page from an electronic journal with a graphic that moved and spun, upon which the reader could click to get more detail or different angles. That moment offered a glimpse into the possibilities of electronic publishing. With innovations

such as this, it is very easy to have our heads in the clouds! The advent of the electronic serial affects many, if not all, areas of the information community. For publishers, e-serials are a new frontier, a new way to present information. For collection development, they offer new and exciting resources to bring into the library. Pioneering catalogers are experimenting to find the best way to provide bibliographic access to these new resources, and public services people must teach users to make optimal use of them. The availability of an access to electronic serials also affects library users, widening the range of information choices. Information in serials, which was always timely, can now be even more so thanks to electronic publishing.

New developments in serials are not limited to technology. Electronic serials are just a part of serials vision. The very nature of seriality is being reconsidered and expanded in the well-received Hirons and Graham paper presented at the Toronto Conference. This will doubtless lead to a change in what is treated as a serial. Loose-leafs and Web pages currently fall outside the scope of a serial, as they are not always updated via discrete issues, each having its own designation. These and other ongoing publications will be included in the new, expanded concept of seriality. This will have a tremendous effect on bibliographic control, division of labor, and workflows.

Amidst all these changes, the information community must strike a balance between zeal and practicality. Librarians should take a leadership role, but how is it best to do this? How can we reconcile all the new developments with financial, technological, and other realities? In this era of tighter budgets, the cost of print subscriptions continues to rise. Administrators must cope with this fact as well as the desire to acquire new technology and electronic subscriptions. Publishers also face financial issues, affecting the balance between copyright owners and users in the electronic environment. Collection development must evaluate the content of these new resources and prioritize, making the most of them, while not disregarding traditional resources. Electronic serials should enhance and extend library collections. Acquisitions has licensing issues to consider. Public services librarians must teach patrons how to use these resources critically, in the context of traditional resources. Cataloging must work to effectively describe these entities, keeping in mind the user. For traditional serials, bibliographic control can be challenging. There has always been the tension of using the best static representation to describe a non-static entity, which has been compared to nailing Jell-O to the wall. Electronic serials are even more dynamic. With

this format, catalogers cannot take for granted such things as the first issue being the oldest and looking the same, or even existing, two weeks after the bibliographic record is created.

I am very excited to be a serials professional in this time of movement and change. I have greatly enjoyed experimenting with cataloging electronic newspapers, attending workshops, and reading about electronic serials. I plan to continue learning. My immediate goal is to keep abreast of new developments, and participate where and how I can. Also, I am working to expand my "big picture" by learning about the implications of these developments for different parts of the information community. I believe it is important to be aware of issues from different points of view, for this is what helps develop common sense.

As a community, librarians must continue their tradition of cooperatively developing the profession's expertise in dealing with the latest in serial resources, formats, and standards. We regularly need to take stock of where we are and where we're going. NASIG conferences are very valuable in that they provide a forum for this type of exchange. Serials vision and common sense will offer the opportunity to ponder the changes and possibilities that are upon us, and to discuss strategies for making the most of them.

Yumin Jiang, Cataloging Librarian for Serials and Electronic Resources, Cornell University

As a new librarian entering the serials profession, I believe that attending the conference will enhance my knowledge of the serials world and the unique features of serials access and control. In addition, interaction with other professionals will help me better understand the current issues surrounding electronic serials and options of accessing them.

Cataloging Electronic Serials

In today's libraries, electronic serials are becoming an important component of their serials collection. More and more library users are starting to incorporate them in their search for information; some of them even rely on this type of information exclusively. To satisfy their needs, two aspects of providing access need to be addressed. On the pragmatic side of the issue, cataloging rules and standards are still under intense discussion among librarians. Although practical solutions to questions such as how to treat multiple versions of a serial and how to verify the currency of its electronic location have been provided, the need for more consistent standards and treatment is still great. On the

theoretical side, the unique nature of electronic serials and the varying relationships between the online version and the printed version of serials have prompted us to rethink the definition of a serial, the concept of bibliographic description, and the future development of AACR.

Organizing Evolving Forms of Information

New forms of information resources are starting to emerge. More and more commercial companies are offering Web-accessible full-text electronic journals, either as the publisher seeking to add value to their products, or as the vendor offering enhanced access to a large amount of journals. UMI's ProQuest Direct is a good example of a searchable index and collection of full-text journals. How should subscribing libraries deal with this kind of collection? How can we point our users to this kind of valuable resource? How can we provide users good access to those full-text titles? One common way to handle the collections is to list all the available journals for users to browse through. This method may deal well with small collections, but it clearly could not provide adequate access to large collections such as ProQuest Direct (whose various databases often contain hundreds or more of full-text titles). A better way to organize the collection would be to catalog those full-text titles, just as we treat traditional resources in OPAC. Or we could catalog them in a gateway-like location where all networked electronic resources are collected, just as some research libraries have done with their digital resources. However, this approach will require libraries to invest a large amount of resources and staff effort, and it will also put great pressure on the record maintenance team to keep up with regular updates and changes in those collections. How should we handle the difficult balance between enhanced access and limited investment? And what impact will this approach bring upon larger information communities? Is there a happy middle point between giving users better access and investing our efforts efficiently? Can we incorporate some metadata standards to deal with the processing of fast-increasing resources?

Comparing New Integrated Library Systems

Many libraries, including Cornell University Library, are considering migrating to, or are in the process of evaluating, the second-generation of integrated library system. To keep up with technological innovation, libraries need to construct a system which could incorporate new digital information products. It is also a great opportunity for serials librarians to streamline the routine procedures through new serials modules, and to concentrate instead on the intellectual aspect of serials access and control. It will benefit us immensely if we actively discuss and exchange experiences and

suggestions on communicating our needs to system vendors.

Managing in Times of Change

In times of change, it is ever more important for people sharing common goals to assert their collective efforts in a concerted way. Within technical services, we need to keep up with changes in policies and rules, and communicate these changes to all staff. Between technical services and public services, we need to share ideas and promote discussions in order to get in touch with users and their changing needs. Between library communities and information providers (publishers, vendors, etc.), we need to establish cooperative arrangements and understandings so that we could obtain better service from them and in turn provide better access to our users.

Our profession is undergoing tremendous changes. It could be the best of times, if we could acknowledge the challenge of information technology and adapt ourselves to the new age. It could also be the worst of times, if we fail to realize the challenge or are reluctant to change. Our most important function is to provide and enhance user access to all information the library collects. As long as we continue to bear this goal in mind, we will be firmly grounded, and we will be able to adjust, grow, and evolve.

*Jie Tian, Periodicals Librarian for User Services,
Coordinator of Periodicals Services, California State
University, Fullerton*

The 1998 NASIG Conference Theme, "Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Serials Vision and Common Sense," accurately describes what is needed of serialists in today's uncertain, rapidly-changing times. To successfully deal with the many challenges facing us, we need just such a combination of vision and practicality as is implied in the Conference Theme.

Technology, the Web in particular, has brought about great promises in information access, storage, distribution, and delivery and posed new challenges regarding network infrastructure, standardization, cost, and use for the information community as a whole. Oftentimes, it is difficult to separate myth from reality. Is the information community entirely migrating from print to electronic? Does the dream of "universal access" still hold true in face of commercialization? Is today's network powerful enough to support instant access for millions of users? With the current diversification in information products, networking hardware and software, who will be responsible for building a unified access point

for users? What technical, financial, and human resources would it take to deliver information to users anytime, anywhere? In order to successfully handle these changes and uncertainties, the information community will need to devise innovative solutions based upon a vision of the future and a synthesis of the best of tradition and common sense.

As a vital segment of the information community, the "serials information chain" is going through tremendous changes in areas of serials publication, pricing, access, delivery, and use. The serials chain constitutes a dynamic and complex community of primary/secondary publishers, commercial/not-for-profit publishers, aggregators, vendors, database producers, system vendors, librarians, and users. For a new serials librarian in an academic environment, it is crucial to learn about the goals, strengths, and interests of each player, to understand the various forces driving development in this area so as to make intelligent decisions that will meet user needs and stretch the budget.

Like the information community at large, serials work is also increasingly dependent on computers and networks. Publishers are publishing electronic journals online, converting the print version to electronic, or offering partial full-text articles bundled with indexes/abstracts. The content resides on a computer server, and access is via the Internet. Subscription to electronic journals allows us the advantage of remote, multi-user access, yet it would also mean that serials are inaccessible when the network is down. As a serialist, what criteria are we going to use to make a decision of print versus electronic subscription? What is the kind of balance that we should keep between print and electronic?

From a serials collection development perspective, subscription to electronic journals entitles libraries only access, but not ownership. The information resides on the publisher's server; the end of a contract can mean losing access to all paid back issues. What impact would this have on libraries and users? What long-term decisions do serialists and libraries need to make in terms of access vs. ownership? How are we going to approach the issues of archiving as a community? Should archiving be decentralized among publishers, libraries, consortia, and networks; or should there be a centralized super-archiving organization? This is an issue acutely impacting serials and serials users. Yet it is a much larger issue than for serialists alone. It affects the broader information community and is a societal issue as well. By exploring the implications of the impermanent nature of electronic information, serialists

would be in a good position to offer valuable advice to the information community as a whole.

Computers and networking also allow publishers and database producers to package serials information in different containers. There are purely electronic journal collections such as IDEAL by Academic Press and Project Muse of the Johns Hopkins University Press. Database publishers like LEXIS/NEXIS, Dow Jones New Retrieval (DJNR), Institute of Science Information (ISI), InfoTrac, and Ebsco are offering journal information in full-text or partial full-text. They are definitely overwhelming for users in terms of interfaces, search capabilities, and content selection. There is a lack of a common gateway to search all databases at a single access point. What journals are online in what database, and what is the coverage for each journal? This presents a challenge not only to users but also to librarians. The ever-changing nature of the databases themselves only complicates the situation even more. Access to articles in these databases alters the "integrity" of the journal as a format; today's serialists need to take into consideration these databases when assessing journal needs of users.

Pricing and licensing represent another complex issue impacting serials work. Academic libraries face decreasing budgets and subscription price inflation, which is augmented by publishers' pricing of electronic journals and database producers' retailing of articles. Publishers currently adopt multiple pricing models: no add-on fee for online journal; online license with add-on fee for print; online free only to print subscribers; or usage-based license fee. No uniform agreement between libraries and publishers is reached. But libraries will certainly be at a disadvantage when they have to pay for the same content in different format. With database producers, libraries are again susceptible to paying multiple times for the same content. For example, if a primary publisher licenses a journal to respectively LEXIS/NEXIS, InfoTrac, Ebsco, ISI, and DJNR, libraries will end up paying different producers for access to the same content. What are some of the solutions to price increases and inflation? Negotiation with publishers, forming consortia, being selective in subscription choices are the kinds of practical skills serial librarians need to develop along with financial and technical skills.

It is exciting and challenging to work as an academic serials librarian in this ever-changing environment. The 1998 NASIG Conference Theme characterizes the best combination of qualities for a serials librarian: vision and common sense, courage and experience, qualities which are indispensable for me to successfully accomplish my

professional goals. As the Coordinator of Periodical Services, my goals are to make available the best of print and electronic journals to support student learning, accurately gauge the needs and desires of users, develop professional expertise, and make intelligent choices regarding technology, serials investment, and the allocation of scarce resources: money, people, technology, and time. I am sure that the NASIG conference will greatly benefit me as a participant seeking good ideas for various questions and will offer an excellent opportunity for me to learn from the vision and expertise of my colleagues.

Regional Councils and Membership Committee Needs Volunteers

The NASIG Regional Councils and Membership Committee is looking for a few good people. We need state, provincial and country representatives. Do you want to get out, meet people and promote NASIG and NASIG activities? Then, this is the group for you.

The Regional Councils and Membership Committee recruits and welcomes new members and promotes NASIG activities. What do state, provincial and country representatives do? They establish contact with local library associations and serve as a resource person for people who have questions about NASIG. They represent NASIG at local library association meetings by displaying and/or distributing NASIG membership brochures. They contact local library school programs to promote NASIG and publicize the Student Grant Program. They work with the NASIG Continuing Education and Conference Planning Committees when NASIG events are planned in their area. They contact new members, welcoming them to the organization. They suggest new ideas for recruitment and advise their Regional Coordinator about local NASIG concerns.

We are especially interested in filling currently open positions in the following states, territories, and provinces: Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Puerto Rico, Manitoba, the Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island), Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon

All the European country positions are open

Appointments are for two years (June - July). If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the work of the Regional Councils please contact Ann Nez at acnez@u.washington.edu or 206-543-6516.

ARCHIVIST APPOINTMENT

The Executive Board is pleased to announce the appointment of **Marilyn Fletcher** to serve as Archivist for a three-year term beginning July 1998. Marilyn, a NASIG member since 1991, is currently the Associate Director of the Center for Southwest Research at the University of New Mexico. Her professional experience also includes serving as Project Coordinator for the New Mexico Newspaper Project and Head of the Serials Department at the University of New Mexico.

The Archivist collects and preserves the papers and electronic documents for the organization. Marilyn will communicate on a regular basis with the Executive Board and committee chairs in order to acquire appropriate documents.

The Board wishes to thank all applicants for their interest in the position and willingness to serve. An ad hoc committee reviewed applications and presented a recommendation to the Board. Committee members included Julie Gammon (University of Akron), Teresa Malinowski (California State University Fullerton), and Christine Stamison (Blackwell's Information Services).

NASIG MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

The New Members column is now only a feature in the Web version of the Newsletter.

TITLE CHANGES

The Title Changes column is on hiatus; it will return in the September issue of the Newsletter.

OTHER SERIALS NEWS

LOUISIANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Full-Text" Access Evaluation: Are We Getting the Real Thing? (Version 2.1.2)
Shreveport, LA, March 8, 1998

Reported by Phoebe Timberlake

Co-sponsored by NASIG and the Louisiana Library Association's Academic Section, this program was full of

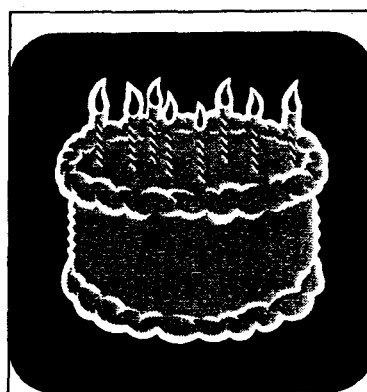
timely, useful information. Laurie Preston, Electronic Reference Services Librarian at Louisiana State University, and Corinne Ebbs, Reference Librarian/Information Instruction Coordinator at Westfield State College, reported on the results of a study undertaken while they were both at James Madison University.

Their study was intended to address their library's growing need, shared by many institutions, to increase journal access while also controlling journal costs. The methodology included examining the two latest issues of seventy-five print journals also available "full-text" in IAC's Expanded Academic Index ASAP database. The titles they selected represented social sciences, sciences, and humanities and were all "core" enough to be indexed by one of the Wilson indexes.

Their findings were startling, indicating that the "full-text" version very often is not "full," sometimes lacking entire articles, often containing different treatment or presentation of tables, illustrations, citations, editorials, and other parts of the print articles. Timeliness was also a consideration with the percentage of recent print issues not yet available in the database growing, even over the course of the study. Some were not there even several years after the printed version had appeared. Their presentation pointed out that, in fact, electronically accessed full-text materials and their print counterparts are not the same.

Preston and Ebbs moved from this conclusion to a discussion of the implications for libraries and for vendors, and to a presentation of a model for determining whether full-text would be useful and cost-effective for a particular institution. Complete with instructions and sample data collection sheets, their program provided the audience with the means to engage in similar studies, and to consider the real options available now and in the future with "full-text" access.

This program was an excellent example of sharing a successful NASIG workshop (given at the Ann Arbor Conference) with another audience. For a more detailed report on the original workshop, check the conference Proceedings, now available at the NASIG Website.



**Happy 25th
Anniversary,
CONSER!**
**May you
continue
indefinitely, and
may your
holdings ever
increase!**

**From
NASIG**

**SEVENTH NORTH CAROLINA SERIALS
CONFERENCE:
"The Seamless Interface: Weaving Serials
Partnerships"**

Chapel Hill, NC, March 5-6, 1998

Sponsored by the NCCU School of Library and
Information Sciences and the NASIG Continuing
Education Committee

Part One: Reported by Kathryn D. Ellis

The Seventh North Carolina Serials Conference presented an exciting variety of sessions on the theme of partnerships. The approximately one hundred attendees were all together for welcoming remarks and the Keynote Address, then participated in one of three breakout sessions. After lunch the breakout sessions were repeated, then the whole group reconvened for a session on government information and a panel discussion on negotiating for electronic resources. The second day consisted of a single, morning-long symposium on partnerships, followed by closing remarks.

Keynote Address: Dr. Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information.

Lynch outlined several discussion areas relating to recent developments in electronic information production and delivery. The shift of electronic publishing from peripheral to central for many organizations brings up a number of economic, technical, social, and legal issues to be considered. Lynch encouraged discussion of these issues among librarians, publishers, researchers, and readers. Serials span and evolve over time, serving as

"collecting points for communities of discussion." These communities of interest persist over time and need a record of how they and their conversations have evolved.

The first discussion area is "coherence." Libraries have traditionally added coherence by collecting works from many different publishers into a single whole, while abstracting and indexing tools have helped to organize literatures within disciplines. The problem today is that electronic information is most often found on publisher and aggregator Web sites, resulting in a fragmented and dispersed body of literature. Because readers need to know the publisher in order to find the correct site, this situation is not very reader friendly. The challenge is to make this electronic information coherent enough to be called a "literature" again. Lynch suggested that abstracting and indexing databases might play a role in meeting this challenge, or that perhaps the next generation of Web indexers and harvesters could help, though it is not clear how they would function with proprietary information.

"Naming, linkage mechanisms, and identifiers" comprise the second discussion area. We need to create identification schemes which transcend physical sites and protocols and can serve as foundations for citation. This is a "standards issue" with political, economic, and social implications. Because naming equals control, this is a critical issue. It could develop into a central public policy problem with implications for the integrity of and continued access to the public record.

The publisher Web site model brings up several other major issues which comprise the third discussion area. One is authentication, for which we still need to develop better technical mechanisms, so that authentication is based upon who someone is rather than where he or she is. This may be solvable in the next couple of years. Another issue is that publishers now have "perfect" use data about users of their sites. The confidentiality, resale, and reuse of this use data needs to be addressed. No one has thought much about this yet, so publishers, librarians, and readers have an opportunity to come together and create language with which all are comfortable regarding this data. A third issue is "what is being read?" It is easy to count which articles are "popular;" this usage information can inform collection development decisions but is not adequate alone. We also need to be careful what publishers do with this information, lest scholarly publishers become like the popular press in only presenting what is popular.

Archiving of indigenous digital material is the fourth area for discussion. Archiving is a difficult problem, but we do

know how to copy data incrementally, from one version to the next. The first goal is to go beyond talk and deal with the problem; the second, is to prioritize what to archive first. Lynch felt that leaving archiving to publishers is misguided, because preservation is stewardship that must transcend companies, mergers, and economic viability. On the other hand, publishers, authors, and content providers are all interested in archiving because knowing a work will be available in the future adds to its value. We must decide what we can do now, what our priorities for preservation are, and we must hold serious conversations with readers of the future and creators of material to decide how best to preserve their materials.

As a challenging example, consider Web sites which document and support events as they occur. What does archiving mean in that situation? Do we take a snapshot at the end, snapshots along the way, or integrate archiving into the construction of the site, with a "time travel nob" to recreate the site at any moment? Another difficult example are sophisticated simulation systems, such as those which can forecast the national budget. They consist of sets of parameters which govern how the simulation works together with performances of the simulation. What should be archived, the system or the performances?

These are all complicated, important, "high-stakes" issues. How will we manage the scholarly dialog, understand our history, use information knowing others are tracking us, and insure important "documents" are being kept? We need leadership. There are no simple answers, but these questions need to be thought through and discussed broadly.

Electronic Government Information: Mary Alice Baish, Assistant Washington Affairs Representative, American Association of Law Libraries

In her talk, subtitled "Nailing Cyber-Jello to the Wall," Baish called for librarians to help both federal and state governments make good decisions as they move towards an electronic information environment. Not all governments have yet been hit by the information revolution, but for those that have been, the revolution is difficult to handle. Governments tend to be decentralized, and there are no government-wide standards, practices, or policies regarding electronic information. She discussed four areas in particular.

First, she discussed the shift to electronic government information. After the 1994 elections, the House Legislative Subcommittee directed that all government

information be electronic within two years. The Senate said to slow down and that the Government Printing Office (GPO) should study the transition to an electronic depository program. Librarians participated in that study and spoke well for libraries' interests. The following year, the House Legislative Subcommittee said the transition could take longer. In November 1997, the Public Printer sent a letter to depository libraries stating that many titles will remain in print for the foreseeable future. Currently the decision whether information should be in electronic or print form rests with the originating agency and is supposed to take into consideration cost effectiveness and usability of the information, today and in the future.

Next, Baish outlined some of the challenges and opportunities for depository libraries, government agencies, and the GPO. Some concerns of libraries include finding electronic information, interoperability, knowing when information is official and authentic, and where information will be in the future. At the moment, Title 44 works very well, allowing the Superintendent of Documents (SuDocs) to add the number of copies needed for depository libraries to each printing order. The problem is that about 50% of government information is "fugitive," due to direct publishing by agencies, privatization of information products, commercialization (when the government sells its products and services), and copyright or copyright-like restrictions, which tend to be greater with electronic formats. GPO Access was created in 1994 to provide for the preservation and permanent public access to electronic government information. It includes daily updates to its electronic catalog of government information. There is also a Pathway Indexer which links to agency Web sites and pages, and the Government Information Locator Service (GILS) which is a centralized list of government information.

Baish then discussed the changing role of depository libraries, highlighting creative partnership programs from the GPO. One of the fundamental principles of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) is that no one can "do it all." We must work together to build, store, disseminate, and preserve government materials. Content Partnerships are one example of cooperative efforts between a university, the SuDocs, and a government agency. The three cooperate to provide access to the agency's information, but if at any point the university is no longer able to participate, then custodianship reverts back to the SuDocs, not the agency.

Finally, Baish discussed what they are doing in Washington, D.C., to affect policy and what we can do

ourselves. She mentioned the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a new executive branch agency with money specifically for libraries and museums. Various groups are working to revise Title 44 to include electronic information and insure the government's responsibility for ongoing access to government information. She also mentioned a plan to elevate the SuDocs to a presidential appointee under the Government Printer, which would allow the person in that position to develop policy in ways he may not now. She encouraged all of us to read ALAWON (ALA Washington Newsletter) Alerts and to send personal postcards to our representatives in Washington regarding issues important to us and to libraries.

Breakout Session A. Maximizing the Web for Serialists: Margaret E. Rioux, Information Systems Librarian, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute

In this very popular session, Maggie Rioux covered basic concepts relating to the Web, resources of particular interest to serialists, and simple techniques for creating your own Web pages. Her power point slides, handouts, and a sample page are available at: <http://mariner.whoi.edu/mrioux/NCSC>. She began by outlining what the Web is. She then described the parts of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), which is like a call number, or phone number and area code, that enables your browser to connect to a Web resource.

Next Rioux demonstrated and discussed various Web search engines and directories. Both are ways of finding things amid the chaos, but while they have many similarities they also have many differences. Search engines are computer "robots" that go look at Web pages. Directories, on the other hand, are classification schemes which attempt to organize Web sites into categories. While "Yahoo!" is the best known directory, there are also many specialized directories. Meta search engines send your search to several search engines at the same time and then show you hits from each. MetaCrawler is the best known, but there are others.

Rioux then discussed how to use the Web as a tool. For your own professional life, look for interesting and useful Web sites mentioned in articles, on listservs, or on other Web sites. And when you have a question to answer, think of looking to the Web first. Finally, Rioux discussed how to share your collection of Web resources with the rest of the world by creating your own Web page. For specific examples, see Maggie Rioux's presentation at the URL mentioned above.

Breakout Session C. Claiming and Database Maintenance: Serials Housekeeping: Nancy Gibbs, Acting Head of Acquisitions, NC State University Libraries and Arlene Hanerfeld, Associate University Librarian for Technical Services, Randall Library, UNC Wilmington.

Gibbs and Hanerfeld took turns describing how major database conversion and cleanup projects were implemented at their libraries. Gibbs began with their move from manual serial checkin to an automated system in 1995. They assembled a Workflow Planning Group, comprised of staff from various departments, to figure out how new processes should work and spent a lot of time tweaking the system. It took about a year to convert all their records and train staff throughout the library. Hanerfeld then described her experience moving from one vendor checkin system to an integrated library automation system. She stressed the importance of quality control throughout the process and the use of reports to monitor quality.

Each speaker then discussed how her library handled the transition from one major serial vendor to another. At UNC-W, their new serial vendor was able to help convert their serial records from the old vendor numbers to new ones. Gibbs recommended keeping students well informed because they do lots of verification and can help with proper claiming.

Serials cancellation and re-order projects were the next discussion topic. At NCSU, they received a list of 940 new titles in March 1997 which needed to be ordered and invoiced by early June. Gibbs described how they enlisted the help of staff throughout the library to complete the project. Hanerfeld then described a cancellation project involving 700-800 titles. They distributed lists to their campus, including payment information and usage statistics. They had good information on internal use and some circulation statistics, but sharing that information may have been a mistake because people could easily misinterpret it.

Each speaker then discussed public aspects of serials work. At NCSU, the periodical service center used to be a part of the acquisitions department. They moved to a public services department last year. At UNC-W, unbound issues were behind a desk in the technical services area and patrons needed to leave an ID to use issues. They moved that service area to the circulation department and rearranged their service desks. The result is much clearer for patrons and allows technical services to work with fewer interruptions.

Finally, the speakers ended with a discussion about the NC LIVE project to provide full-text electronic access to libraries across the state. The audience participated in a discussion about cataloging and adding holdings for titles included in full-text databases and how patrons will know that a library has purchased access to particular materials.

Part Two: Reported by June Chressanthis

Breakout Session B: "Cataloging Electronic Serials," Elaine Drusedow, Serials Catalog Librarian, Duke University.

Elaine Drusedow presented an informative session on the theoretical and practical aspects of cataloging electronic serials (e-serials). Drusedow explained that Duke University has approximately 4000 e-serials cataloged for their online catalog. These e-serials are also accessible through the library's Web page. The presentation began with an explanation of basic terminology including the proposed new definition of a serial. She then raised and discussed related issues in cataloging e-serials. One of the major issues a library must deal with is how to handle the problem of connecting users accessing the e-serial outside of the physical library. Many e-serials require the use of passwords or specific IP addresses to be used in order to gain entrance into the e-serial Web page. Duke has solved this problem by providing a link to an intermediary Web page which provides the necessary password or IP authentication. Another issue to consider is whether to classify e-serials. Duke has decided not to classify as their other nonprint material is not classified. However, classification will facilitate call number browsing. Another question to address is whether to drop or keep the print subscription. This answer should be determined by each library's unique situation, but Duke has elected not to drop the print subscription. The maintenance of URLs is another major decision the library will need to make. Should someone in cataloging, acquisitions, systems, or even the vendor be responsible for this job? How frequently should the URLs be checked? Whoever does maintain the URLs will need to have access to the bibliographic record and the library's Web page if e-serials are accessible via both avenues.

In the second part of the presentation, Elaine highlighted examples of Duke cataloging records for e-serials. These examples included the use of various MARC fields and how to use them in relation to e-serials. She also presented examples of holdings records.

Main Session: "Wheeling and Dealing for Electronic Resources: A Panel Discussion" Speakers: Julie Blume Nye, Network Development Consultant, State Library of North Carolina; Fran Staples, Account Manager, Institute for Scientific Information; Amy Dykeman, Associate Director for Administrative Services, NCSU Libraries.

The focus of this panel discussion was North Carolina's NC LIVE project. The individual speakers were each instrumental in bringing this project to fruition with each person speaking from a different perspective. NC LIVE stands for North Carolina Libraries and Virtual Education. The project was conceived in August 1996 and funded by the state legislature in September 1997. The project will go "live" and couple with state National Library Week activities in April 1998.

The goals of NC LIVE are: each library in North Carolina will be a gateway to electronic resources in the state and beyond; and, each citizen will have access to electronic information. The communities of interest (COI) in the project include the North Carolina State Library, 75 public libraries, 59 community colleges, the 16 campuses of the UNC system, 36 independent college and university libraries, and K-12 schools throughout the state.

NC LIVE is governed by a memoranda of understanding with a steering committee of members from each of the COI. There are many committees and ad hoc task forces to facilitate the development of the project. Each committee has equal representation among the COI. Every participant in the project has equal access to all the databases. The steering committee decided that only Web-based products would be purchased. In addition, it was decided that each product would be available to each participating library regardless of the nature of the database. To accomplish this there was equal representation and input into what products to buy. The COIs all represent different interests and patrons, but got along well in choosing which resources to purchase.

Friday, March 6

Main Session: "TALK! TALK! TALK! Communicating to Develop Effective Partnerships: A Symposium" Speakers: David Ferriero, University Librarian, Perkins Library, Duke University; Sherwin Rice, Director of Library Services, Bladen County Public Library; James Coble, Director, Library Information Systems, Perkins Library, Duke University; Bruce Heterick, Director, Electronic Sales Blackwell's Information Services; Jenny Kanji, Senior Account Executive, LEXIS-NEXIS.

Each speaker shared views of how she/he developed partnerships with the varied groups each comes in contact with. The speakers are from different types of libraries and yet developed partnerships with administrators, patrons at various skill levels, donors, library staff, and vendors and publishers. Common themes present in each speaker's comments included the following traits for developing and maintaining successful partnerships: honesty, integrity, mutual respect, interest in where each person is coming from, listening skills, and humor.

**UNITED KINGDOM SERIALS GROUP
21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE 30 March - 1 April 1998
UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

Reported by Ros Doig, with additions by Susan Davis

This was the second visit to Exeter for this conference. The university occupies a really delightful campus full of botanical interest. It is also very hilly and quite a challenge for the more unfit amongst us since the venue for the sessions is at the top of a hill and all the residences at the bottom! (I thought there were more cars than usual at this conference — I wonder why?)

I find nowadays that the high standards of visual presentation that accompany most of the papers make life difficult for the reporter of these kinds of events, so I hope you will forgive us for giving you a flavour of the conference rather than a blow by blow account.

Not surprisingly the underlying theme at this year's conference was electronic information in the world of serials and how the various players in the field are managing it. It was also evident throughout the conference that technology is changing so rapidly that there are many models being offered to librarians/end-users for accessing electronic information.

The opening papers revealed the problems of the subscription agent, publisher, and librarian in deciding how to deal with electronic journals whether as adjuncts to print or purely electronic in origin. As a librarian I particularly liked the idea of being information cartographers — folk mapping out the course of information. But, as was pointed out, we too need to be flexible and multi-skilled and visionary in this electronic environment.

There followed a couple of papers on knowledge as a key asset in any organisation and how its management can affect that organisation's business. This session ended with a paper about the stumbling blocks on the long road to information integration. At the moment there

is no easy access to electronic information — a situation which I'm sure most of the audience identified with all too well.

The theme of Tuesday morning's presentations was "In the Market for Electronic Products." Speakers addressed the advantages of consortial purchasing, such as the OhioLink model in the US and CHEST (Combined Higher Education Software Team) in the UK. Current developments with the UK Pilot Site Licence Initiative (PSLI) were described, as well as the outcome of the pilot — a National Electronic Site Licence Initiative (NESLI as opposed to Nestle's chocolate!). NESLI hopes to get off the ground in January 1999, but there is still a lot of work to do beforehand.

In the afternoon we heard papers on developments in the public library field. A study currently underway has learned some interesting things. Public libraries define electronic serials as magazine, newspapers, e-zines, NOT scholarly journals. Over 60% of public libraries in the UK hold some electronic serials (6 is the average number). Staff in the public libraries face many of the same challenges in coping with electronic information as their academic colleagues. The Electronic Access to Resources in Libraries (EARL) is exploring partnerships amongst public libraries. Their objectives are to develop a national union list of public library newspaper, journal, and magazine holdings; provide links to other Internet sites; and have a electronic document delivery service. (See www.earl.org.uk for more information.) (As an aside, NASIG has been trying to encourage participation from public librarians, so it was nice to see that the UKSG had included some speakers from this constituency in their program.)

The final sessions of the day focused on the cost of quality. Two venerable academics easily held the audience's attention at the end of a long day (and after the Devon cream tea break earlier). The physicist gave this message to publishers and editors: move quickly to electronic publication and retrieval, maintain rigorous refereeing, and emphasize quality over quantity. The other speaker, who is editor in chief of the journal Addiction believes there are two types of scientific journal, the passive and the active. In his definition the active journal has a voice and a purpose, and seeks to influence the scientific community. Some of his more interesting ideas were: to have editorials peer reviewed, have the journal monitor and seek to improve its own performance, provide training for peer reviewers, and "recruit an Iguana." The Iguana has a column in the journal which uses humor to discuss serious issues, which is actually how this presentation was delivered.

On Wednesday morning we heard about The SuperJournal Project from the E-Lib programme — a collaboration between Manchester University, the HUSAT Research Institute (Loughborough), and libraries from 13 UK universities. Journals in the sciences and humanities have been made available electronically, and their use by and effect on readers is being closely monitored. We also heard about the Higher Education Digitisation Service which undertakes digitisation projects on individual publications as well as advising HE institutes wishing to digitise material of their own. The main point to consider in any such project is the balance between cost and benefit and what exactly the main achievement of the undertaking will be — is digitisation appropriate at all? One of the most challenging projects the service is undertaking is to digitise the journal Nature, the difficulty being the complexity of the information in its pages. We were then given a highly entertaining but serious talk on economic and management issues for the electronic environment entitled "Hanging on to what we've got." Entering warmly into the theme all the comments were collected under headings from a 60's discography. I suspect we might have been more pre-occupied with working out the songs and their singers!!

The conference always ends on a lighter note so the final paper was a fascinating insight into the production and ethos of Hello magazine (top selling magazine at Heathrow airport). I was really impressed and will look at Hello through fresh eyes. (One of the more interesting details is that the magazine is printed in Spain and trucked to the UK — more cost effective than printing in the UK!)

I shouldn't overlook the excellent workshops which are a real feature of the conference. Sadly we could only attend two each but with topics such as electronic library formats, managing e-journals, pricing issues, tendering (bidding), electronic copyright, licensing, and so on, it was hard to make a choice.

As usual the conference was well supported by an excellent exhibition with some forty vendors and suppliers having stands and giving product reviews. To finish with just a note about the entertainment on each evening. This too is an integral and important part of the programme — a chance to let off steam and relax after the rigours of the day! The quiz was a huge success but I never seem to be in the winning team! The night of the banquet was extra special, the food was excellent, and there was a line dancing demonstration afterward. Many of the delegates worked off their dinners trying to master the steps of five or six line dances. Everyone expected

the Americans to know all about this, but these particular Americans were no more expert than anyone else! It was great fun to see so many people participate. Then afterwards the night finished with the perennial "disco" and late night socializing. (The UKSGers seem to have a lot more energy for the late night activities than we NASIGers!)

And, of course, it's always a pleasure to speak to old friends and make new ones. Most of the papers will be published in the UKSG's Serials. Please look out for them and read in detail what our speakers had to say (and visit the UKSG website at <http://www.uksg.org/>).

SS AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SS/NASIG COOPERATION FINAL REPORT JANUARY 13, 1998

The ALCTS SS Ad Hoc committee on SS/NASIG Cooperation met live in San Francisco at Annual and in New Orleans at Midwinter. Members of the similar NASIG committee attending ALA joined us at both meetings. We also met via a listserv set up by our NASIG colleagues several times in between, thereby fulfilling our first recommendation — to cooperate informally whenever possible — even before this report was written!

Two important challenges appear to impede a more formal attempt at cooperation between the two bodies in the immediate future. The first is that the Serials Section and NASIG function in different ways. NASIG is an autonomous and independent organization entirely dependent on and responsible only to its members. Serials Section is part of a much larger group — ALCTS (which is again part of a much larger group — ALA) — and is subject to the bureaucratic and hierarchical issues which naturally accompany such a large group. The second is that part of the ALCTS goals require that any events apart from programs presented during conferences put on by its membership make a profit while NASIG workshops, etc. are self-sustaining.

With these challenges in mind, the Committee feels that any attempts at cooperation between Serials Section and NASIG must begin as a grass roots effort. Individual SS members must work informally with individual NASIG members to foster and encourage cooperation, thus building a foundation for a continuing and more formal collaboration in the future. This is our principal recommendation.

We also make the following, more prosaic, proposals. Implementation of some or all of these will provide the groundwork necessary to move from ad hoc cooperation to the more formal collaboration desired.

- make a link from ALA/ALCTS/SS home page to the NASIG home page;
- survey the ALCTS SS membership to determine how many people are involved in both SS and NASIG. This survey could also serve as a means for identifying experts in various areas who could participate in the development, planning, and presentation of educational programs;
- encourage both SS and NASIG to designate a representative to attend each others' meetings and programs to extend greetings of the membership;
- ask NASIG to co-sponsor a SS program or workshop in name only in the same way that SISAC has done
- the sharing of membership lists for publicizing CE workshops; i.e., ask NASIG to provide SS with a list for SS institutes and SS volunteer to provide NASIG with a list for NASIG workshops;
- approach the ALCTS Publications Committee to see if ALCTS has any interest in publishing NASIG proceedings;
- propose a joint ALCTS/NASIG continuing education workshop with ALCTS publishing the proceedings;
- attempt the joint publication of serials tools;
- encourage the ALCTS Executive Director and/or her assistant to attend NASIG meetings.

Committee members believe cooperation between the two groups is highly desirable. We appreciate this opportunity to explore possible areas of such cooperation for the Serials Section Executive Committee and hope that you will call on us for any additional help needed in facilitating progress towards this goal.

Respectfully submitted; Sandy Heft, Chair; Alex Bloss, Lisa Macklin, and Sally Tseng, members.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 18-21, 1998
13th NASIG Conference
University of Colorado, Boulder
Boulder, Colorado

June 25-July 2, 1998
ALA Annual Conference
Washington, DC

July 11-16, 1998
American Association of Law Libraries
Annual Meeting
Anaheim, CA

August 16-21, 1998
64th IFLA Council and General Conference
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

October 13-15, 1998
ARL Membership Meeting
[open only to ARL library directors]
Washington, D.C.

October 26-29, 1998
American Society for Information Science
Annual Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA

November 5-7, 1998
18th Annual Charleston Conference on Issues in Book
and Serial Acquisitions
Charleston, SC

January 22-29, 1999
ALA Midwinter Meeting
Philadelphia, PA

May 14 - 20, 1999
Medical Library Association
Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL

June 24 - July 1, 1999
ALA Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA

November 4-6, 1999
19th Annual Charleston Conference on Issues in Book
and Serial Acquisitions
Charleston, SC

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